

STATUS OF *ACIGONA* HÜBNER (SENSU BLESZYNSKI)  
(LEPIDOPTERA: PYRALIDAE: CRAMBINAE) WITH  
CHANGES IN NOMENCLATURE

CHARLES W. AGNEW

Department of Entomology, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843-2475.

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*Abstract.*—*Acigona* Hübner has been incorrectly used as a generic name in the Crambinae due to an earlier type designation of a noctuid species. *Acigona* (sensu Bleszynski) is composed of genus level taxa which should not be considered congeneric. *Friedlanderia* n. name is proposed as a replacement name for *Chiloides* Bleszynski 1963, a homonym of *Chiloides* Butler 1881. The type, *Tinea cicatricella* Hübner, had been incorrectly designated the type of *Acigona* by Bleszynski. *Eoreuma morbidella* (Dyar) n. comb. and *Coniesta forsteri* (Bleszynski) n. comb. are transferred from *Acigona*.

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Some unfortunate taxonomic errors have resulted in much confusion regarding the use of the generic name *Acigona* within the subfamily Crambinae (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae). The incorrect usage of this name for crambine species is especially widespread in the non-systematic literature as the larvae of several species have been reported to infest agronomically-important Poaceae. Although many of the problems cannot be remedied until a revision of *Acigona* (sensu Bleszynski, 1967) is completed, some contributions toward nomenclatural stability can be made at this time.

The genus *Acigona* was proposed by Hübner ([1826]: 342) for two species without a type species being designated. Hampson (1926) selected one of these, *Phalaena manto* Cramer (Noctuidae), as the type of *Acigona* and treated the genus as a synonym of *Euclystis* Hübner. Bleszynski and Collins (1962), apparently unaware of this action, designated the other included species, *Tinea cicatricella* Hübner (Pyralidae) as the type of *Acigona* in the Crambinae. Bleszynski (1963) also designated *T. cicatricella* as the

type of *Chiloides* Amsel 1949. Amsel (1949) originally included two species, *T. cicatricella* and *Chilo hederalis* Amsel in *Chiloides*. Bleszynski (1963) decided Amsel had not properly designated a type species as required by The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (Article, 13b), which made the generic name unavailable. Although Amsel appeared to indicate *T. cicatricella* was to be the type, the wording is somewhat ambiguous and probably fails to satisfy the Code. In either case, Bleszynski intended *Chiloides* to become a junior objective synonym of *Acigona*.

Bleszynski (1965, 1967) expanded his concept of *Acigona* to encompass species of the genera *Coniesta* Hampson, *Eoreuma* Ely, *Haimbachia* Dyar, *Achilo* Amsel, *Donacoscaptes* Zeller, *Girdhiara* Kapur and *Xubida* Schaus, all of which share a condition of the female genitalia where a narrowed extension or "bridge" from the anterior margin of the eighth tergite extends down onto the ostium bursa. Bleszynski (1967) also transferred several species to *Acigona* from *Chilo*, *Erupa*, and *Eufernal-*

*dia* and described one species, *A. forsteri*, in *Acigona* (Bleszynski, 1965). The monotypic genus *Occidentalina* was included under *Acigona* by Klots (1970, 1983), but not by Bleszynski.

Because Hampson's (1926) type designation places *Acigona* in the Noctuidae, there is no name for Bleszynski's concept in the Pyralidae. *Donacoscapes* Zeller is the oldest available name, but Bleszynski's generic concept, regardless of the name applied to it, is unsatisfactory. Even before the problem with the erroneous type species designation for *Acigona* was brought to light (Nye, 1975; Fletcher and Nye, 1984), workers had begun to recognize the validity of some of the genera synonymized by Bleszynski (Klots, 1970; Gaskin, 1973). I also believe that *Acigona* (sensu Bleszynski) contains several good genera as well as species for which new genera probably should be proposed. For example, *Coniesta*, *Eoreuma*, and *Haimbachia* are closely related, but can be separated by genitalic characters of both sexes, especially the females. Several tropical species of *Eoreuma* and *Haimbachia* are incorrectly assigned. After an examination of the male type and an associated female, I am transferring one former member of *Acigona*, *Chilo morbidellus* Dyar, to *Eoreuma* as *E. morbidella* (Dyar) n. comb. This South American species has the typical uncus and gnathos of *Eoreuma* and most closely resembles *E. loftini* (Dyar) and *E. evae* Klots in the shape of the costal processes of the valvae. The female genitalia are also similar to those of *E. loftini*.

No single action can correct the problems with the name and the concept of *Acigona* (sensu Bleszynski). A replacement name for the genus could come from designating the type species of the senior synonym, *Donacoscapes validus* Zeller, as a new type for the generic concept to which Bleszynski applied the name *Acigona*, but this would still result in the synonymization of good genera. In removing the genera from synonymy, we do not resolve the problem of the species

which do not belong in one of eight valid genera once included under *Acigona*. Because *T. cicatricella*, the 'type' of *Acigona* (sensu Bleszynski), is also the type of *Chiloides*, it appears that there is an available generic name for this species. However, *Chiloides* Bleszynski 1963, is a junior homonym of *Chiloides* Butler 1881, (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae) and thus unavailable. I therefore propose the following replacement name for *Chiloides* Bleszynski.

#### *Friedlanderia* Agnew, NEW NAME

*Chiloides* Amsel 1949, nomen nudum.

*Chiloides* Bleszynski 1963, preoccupied by *Chiloides* Butler 1881 (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae).

*Acigona*: Bleszynski and Collins 1962 (not Hübner 1816 [1826]), incorrect type designation.

Type species: *Tinea cicatricella* Hübner [1823]–[1824]: pl. 68, fig. 455.

Diagnosis of genus.—Same as for the type *cicatricella*, provided by Bleszynski (1965) who figured both sexes (Plate 5, Figs. 67<sub>-1,3</sub>), their genitalia (♂, Plate 44, Fig. 67; ♀, Plate 94, Fig. 67), and the larva (Figs. 67<sub>3-4</sub>). The heavily sclerotized ovipositor of the female is unusually shaped and distinguishes *Friedlanderia cicatricella* (Hübner) N. COMB. from species in other genera. The basally lobed uncus can be used to distinguish the male from species in related genera. The degree of sexual dimorphism in the wing pattern of *F. cicatricella* is much more marked than in most Crambinae. The genus is named for Timothy P. Friedlander, whose knowledge of Lepidoptera provided me with a helpful introduction to the Crambinae.

At this time, only the type species, *F. cicatricella*, belongs in the genus as currently defined. The other species included by Amsel (1949), *Chiloides hederalis* (Amsel), is a synonym of *Thopeutis galleriella* (Ragonot) (Bleszynski and Collins, 1962).

No useful purpose would be served by transferring from *Acigona* to *Friedlanderia*

those species originally described in *Chilo*, *Erupa*, and *Eufernaldia*. For the present, these misplaced species should revert to those genera until their generic affinities can be determined. Species from the genera once synonymized under *Acigona* have valid combinations available. One species without a valid combination, *Acigona forsteri* from China, is transferred to the Old World genus *Coniesta* to become ***Coniesta forsteri*** (Bleszynski) N. COMB. based on an illustration of the male genitalia by Bleszynski (1965). Further study may necessitate placing it elsewhere, but I feel that the present lack of a valid combination should be rectified for nomenclatural purposes.

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